

DETAILED LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-16 (Cancelled)

Claim 17 (Previously Presented) A method of forming a medical device comprising the steps of:

- providing an optical fiber core having a proximal end and a distal face;
- associating the proximal end of the core with an optical connector;
- enclosing the optical fiber core in a continuous, uninterrupted sleeve, wherein the sleeve has a length at least substantially the length of the optical fiber core extending from the optical connector to at least the distal face of the optical fiber core, and forming a closed tip in the sleeve, the tip being disposed distal of distal face of the optical fiber core.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented) A method of forming a medical device comprising the steps of:

- providing an optical fiber core having a proximal end and a distal face;
- associating the proximal end of the core with an optical connector;
- enclosing the optical fiber core in a continuous, uninterrupted sleeve, wherein the sleeve has a length at least substantially the length of the optical fiber core extending from the optical connector to at least the distal face of the optical fiber core, and providing an optical coupling layer intermediate a portion of the sleeve and a distal portion of the optical fiber core.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 17, wherein a space is provided intermediate the distal face of the optical fiber core and the sleeve tip.

Claim 20. (original) The method of Claim 19 comprising disposing a component in the space provided intermediate the distal face of the optical fiber core and the sleeve tip.

Claim 21. (original) The method of Claim 20 comprising disposing a light scattering component in the space provided intermediate the distal face of the optical fiber core and the sleeve tip.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 17 comprising the step of abrading a portion of an inner surface of the sleeve.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 17 wherein the step of enclosing the optical fiber core in the sleeve results in the sleeve touching the core.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented) A method of making a medical device comprising the steps of:

- exposing a distal portion of an optical fiber core;
- sliding a continuous, uninterrupted sleeve over substantially the full length of the fiber core;
- providing an optical coupling layer intermediate the distal portion of the optical fiber core and the sleeve; and
- forming a closed, tissue penetrating tip in the sleeve, the closed, tissue penetrating tip disposed distal of the distal portion of the optical fiber core.

Claim 25 (Cancelled)

Claim 26 (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 24 further comprising providing a space intermediate the distal face of the optical fiber core and the tissue penetrating tip.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 24 further comprising disposing a material having fluorescent properties intermediate the distal face of the optical fiber core and the tip.

Claim 28 (Original) The method of Claim 24 comprising the step of contacting the fiber optic core with the sleeve.

Claim 29 (Original) The method of Claim 24 comprising the step of abrading a portion of the inner surface of the sleeve.

Claim 30 (Canceled)